

MEMORANDUM of Interview

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



482767

Site: Johns-Manville  
Waukegan, IL.

Date: 04-23-98

From: Mike R. Rafati, Enforcement Specialist  
Frank Boenzi, Civil Investigator

To: File

Interview Date and Time: May 27, 1998 at 11:00 a.m.

Spoke with: [REDACTED], Current employee of Johns-Manville  
Trevor, WI. 51379 (locate 5 miles north of Anitoch, IL.)  
Telephone: [REDACTED]

Present at the Interview: Mike R. Rafati, Enforcement Specialist, U.S. EPA  
[REDACTED], Civil Investigator  
[REDACTED], Interviewee

Subject: [REDACTED]'s personal account of Johns-Manville activities in relation to the  
Johns-Manville Site.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] years old and is technically a current employee of Johns-Manville. [REDACTED] is currently at home waiting to hear from Johns-Manville to approve his [REDACTED] retirement. [REDACTED] also states that as of 05-27-98 the Johns-Manville site of Waukegan, IL. will cease all operations no later than July of 1998. [REDACTED] started with Johns-Manville back in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] worked as [REDACTED], he also served as a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] used to haul Transient pipes, Flex Boards, Transient Dust, (Grinded from pipes) and dumped out into a large hill (land fill) in the back of the plant. Abbott laboratories who were building all the time would bring trucks full of dirt used to cover the landfill.

[REDACTED] was expecting to hear from us, he was told from a friend named [REDACTED] who worked at Johns-Manville and also was a ranger for the Illinois State Beach Park. [REDACTED] went on to say the [REDACTED] was the person who "created this whole ruckus." In [REDACTED] opinion he feels that [REDACTED] made the asbestos washing up at the beach public knowledge.

At the start of the Interview [REDACTED] was asked when was the date of his retirement from Johns-Manville. [REDACTED] answered by saying that he is on [REDACTED] and is waiting for his [REDACTED] (retirement). He went on to say that the Waukegan's Johns-Manville site will cease all

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operations and shut down no later than July of 1998.

Upon hearing that [REDACTED] was Technically a Johns-Manville employee, the two investigators ([REDACTED] and Mike Rafati) explained to [REDACTED] that in all fairness their should be a counselor from Johns-manville present when US EPA is conducting an interview/investigation of a current employee. [REDACTED] at this time temporarily ceased the interview and attempted to get advice from Office of Regional Council (OSC). After attempting to contact legal counsel several times, [REDACTED] stated that the information that he wants to share are pure facts and that he was not trying to peg the blame on Johns-Manville or any other company. And that he would volunteer the information and wanted to go on record saying he did not mind talking to US EPA Investigators without Johns-Manville counsel present.

[REDACTED] then told [REDACTED] that he did not have to share any information on Johns-Manville and that he would be happy with information that was not related to his current employer. [REDACTED] said that the information that he wanted to share would not reflect information that would jeopardize Johns-manville and that he wanted to go ahead with the interview.

[REDACTED] explained that he believes that the asbestos that is washing up on the Illinois beach shore is mostly coming from the Intake pipes that go out into the lake. He went on saying that each town (Waukegan, Benton Harbor, Lake Forest, Zion) and major companies in the area had intake pipes that were laden with asbestos and had a diameter of two feet. Mr. [REDACTED] was asked when these pipes were laid out he stated "back in the thirties" and because of high powered boats and the stress of wear and tear on the pipes being out into the lake for over 30 years the asbestos is starting to come off.

When [REDACTED] was asked about the Firing Range built behind the Plant, [REDACTED] answered saying it was built in the late 50's. [REDACTED] stated that the range had a berm that was made up of dirt, crushed transient pipe that had asbestos. The dimension of the berm according to [REDACTED] where 200 feet wide and 30 feet high and had a natural slope. A tractor would have no problem going up and down the berm. [REDACTED] went on to say that the berm was bulldozed by the city of Waukegan back in the early to mid 70's (73-75). The berm was flattened and spread out on the beach and then was covered by a layer of sand. [REDACTED] also stated that it was possible that some of the berm could be washed into the lake. The city of Waukegan bulldozed the firing range it then created a fishing pier until the mid 80's where the State of Illinois then took over the pier and fenced it off in 1986.